

**Minutes of the Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering**  
**Public Hearing #2**  
**Theatre Arts Arena, Montgomery College – Rockville Campus**  
**51 Mannakee Street**  
**Rockville, MD 20850**  
**January 31, 2018**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Co-Chair Walter Olson opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m. He expressed thanks to Montgomery College – Rockville for hosting the event and invited the commissioners present to introduce themselves.

Commissioners Present:

Alexander Williams, Jr. – Co-Chair

Walter Olson – Co-Chair

Ashley Oleson

Maury S. Epner, Esq.

Deborah Lundahl

Christopher Howard

Luis T. Gutierrez, Jr.

Matthew Douglas, Esq.

Kathleen Jo Parsons Tabor, Esq.

Co-Chair Olson gave a brief overview of the background of redistricting in the sixth district, the duties of the Commission as outlined in the Governor’s Executive Order, and a timeline of upcoming events.

Co-chair Olson welcomed attendees to speak and share their thoughts and concerns. Participation was encouraged and attendees that did not indicate they wished to speak upon arrival were informed that they would still be given the opportunity to speak at the end.

Of the 14 attendees that spoke, common themes are listed below:

- Western Maryland is different than Montgomery County. Keep similar communities with shared values and interests together.
- Belief that urban areas are well represented while rural areas are not. Belief that an elected official cannot adequately serve both without having to choose sides.
- Desire that the Commission return to the original district boundaries.
- Gerrymandering hurts all voters. Every vote should count.
- Elected representatives should represent the people and communities they serve.
- The Commission should take this opportunity to address similar issues throughout Maryland and fix all districts.
- Criteria for the Commission’s task should be made as clear as possible.
- Keep districts compact. Respect natural boundaries.
- Algorithms can help the Commission in their work.

Co-Chair Alexander Williams thanked the attendees that spoke for their participation. He also noted that many of the concerns heard were similar to those expressed by those who attended the first public hearing in Frederick. He also clarified that the task of this commission is to specifically redraw the sixth district.

Co-Chair Olson thanked the audience for attending and shared the date for the next public hearing which is to be held in Western Maryland on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

The public hearing adjourned at 7:58 p.m.